



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held May 11, 2004, the Board took the following action:

17

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“Every year scores of immigrants in the State of California are defrauded thousands of dollars and are given misleading advice by unscrupulous immigration consultants who misrepresent their legal authority and capacity to help immigrants become legal residents or citizens. This problem is not new. Indeed, when I served as a member of the California State Assembly in 1983, I authored legislation, A.B. 1407, to amend Chapter 20 of the State’s business code so that in order to practice immigration consulting, an individual had to be a professional attorney or authorized by Federal law to represent immigrants before the Board of Immigration Appeals or the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (now called the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services). A.B. 1407 also mandated that individuals practicing immigration consulting who were not attorneys must disclose this fact to their clients and also disclose what services they could or could not provide. It also required consultants to author their written contracts in both English and the language of the client.

“In addition, A.B. 1407 required consultants to clearly state in any contract language what fees would be charged to the client, and it afforded clients a 72-hour window during which they could rescind any contract signed with an immigration consultant.

(Continued on Page 2)

“This year the Los Angeles City Attorney has sponsored legislation, A.B. 2516 (Vargas and Correa) and A.B. 2691 (Lieber and Correa), which would strengthen existing laws to protect consumers against immigration fraud. A.B. 2516 would prohibit immigration consultants from making misleading statements that they can obtain special favors from a government agency, official, or employee, not limited to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A.B. 2691 would require each individual who acts in the capacity of an immigration consultant, including each employee of a corporation or other entity, to secure a \$50,000 bond with the Secretary of State before engaging in business as an immigration consultant. The bond would be available to compensate persons damaged by any fraud, misrepresentation, unlawful act, or omission committed by an immigration consultant.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board went on record in support of AB 2516 (Vargas and Correa) and AB 2691 (Lieber and Correa), legislation which would increase consumer protections against fraud committed by immigration consultants; and instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to work for their passage.

8051104-17

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel

Letters sent to:

Assemblywoman Sally J. Lieber
Assemblyman Lou Correa
Assemblyman Juan Vargas